

Amendment to the Specification

Please amend the specification at page 1, by inserting the Joint Research Statement, as shown in the amendment to specification below.

JOINT RESEARCH STATEMENT

The claimed invention, in the field of functional genomics and the characterization of plant genes for the improvement of plants, was made by or on behalf of Mendel Biotechnology, Inc. and Monsanto Company as a result of activities undertaken within the scope of a joint research agreement in effect on or before the date the claimed invention was made.